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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/731,850 12/08/2000 Fumiko Yano 1163-0306P 8820

7590 04/05/2004

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
P.O. BOX 747  
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER
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FOULADI SEMNANI, FARANAK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2672 15

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/731,850	YANO, FUMIKO
	Examiner Faranak Fouladi	Art Unit 2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 December 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: application, filed on 12/08/2000; IDS, filed on 12/08/2000; and Amendment A, filed 11/21/02; RCE, IDS and amendment C, filed on 06/27/03; Amendment D, filed on 12/31/03.
2. Claims 1-15 are pending in the case, with claims 1, 6, 11, 13 and 15 being independent.
3. The present title of the application is "Character Display Device and Character Display Method" (as originally filed).
4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

- ◆ The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:
- A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
5. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seto et al. Publication Number JP, 10-293569A (Canon Inc.).

Independent Claim 1

A character display device to display one or more characters without modification, comprising:

a recording means recording a dot pattern and a proximal reference point of each character of a character series;

a coordinate calculation means obtaining said proximal reference point of each character of said character series from said recording means and calculating a display position of each character from a display angle, display reference position, said proximal reference point and a proximal reference point of said character series; and

a display means obtaining said dot pattern for each character of said character series from said recording means and displaying each character based on said calculated display position of each character calculated by said coordinate calculation means.

Sato

Sato disclose recording font data (generally stored as dot data) in Paragraph [0002] and disclose a proximal reference point of each character of a character series in paragraph [0010] line 21 on page 6 through line 7 on page 7.

Sato disclose a coordinate calculation means obtaining said proximal reference point of each character of said character series from said recording means in paragraph [0010] line 21 on page 6 through line 7 on page 7

and Sato disclose calculating a display position of each character from a display angle, display reference position, said proximal reference point and a proximal reference point of said character series in paragraph [0020] on page 11 and Paragraph [0023]; and

Sato disclose a display means obtaining said dot pattern for each character of said character series from said recording means and displaying each character based on said calculated display position of each character calculated by said coordinate calculation means in paragraph [0046] on page 17.

Seto also teaches the above claim in abstract and in Fig 5-10.

Sato disclose in drawings 5-10 how to determine a dot pattern and proximal reference point of each character of the character series. For example in drawing 8a reference 41 shows a basic character pattern. Sato disclose positioning of each character of the character series on the display using display angle ( $\theta$ ), display reference position (0,0) and proximal reference point (through drawing 7 reference numbers 3,5,7, and 9) and a proximal reference point of character series (through drawing 10 reference number 2).

6. Regarding dependent claim 2, "A character display device according to claim 1, wherein, when said recording means records dot patterns and proximal reference points of sloping characters which slope at an arbitrary angle apart from normal non-sloping characters, said display means and said coordinate calculation means select a normal character or a sloping character depending on a display angle of said character series and obtain dot patterns and proximal reference points of said selected characters." Seto teaches in paragraph [0010] line 11-23 on page 7 and reference # 13 on Drawing.1, and in paragraph [0029] line 14 on page 14 through paragraph [0032] line 11 on page 15.
  
7. Regarding dependent claim 3, "A character display device according to claim 1, wherein said display means and said coordinate calculation means compare an angle of slope of a normal and a sloping character with said display angle of said character series and select a normal character or a sloping character having an angle of slope most approximating said display angle." Seto teaches in

Drawing.9, and in paragraph [0036] line 23 on page 15 through paragraph [0042] line 22 on page 16.

8. Regarding dependent claim 4, "A character display device according to claim 1, further comprising an input means allowing input of said character series to be displayed, and said display angle and said display reference position of said character series." Seto teaches in Drawing. 1 reference #4-6 and in paragraph [0010] line 23 on page 5 through line 7 on page 6 and also Drawing. 4.
9. Regarding dependent claim 5, "A character display device according to claim 1, further comprising a reading means reading said character series to be displayed being recorded in a memory, and said display angle and said display reference position of said character series." Seto teaches in Drawing. 1 reference #10 and 11 and in paragraph [0010] line 23 on page 6 through line 4 on page 7.
10. Claims 6-10 recite method steps performed by the apparatus of claims 1-5; therefore they are similar in scope and rejected under the same rationale.
11. Claims 11 and 15 are similar to claim 1 and also claim 13 is similar to claim 6; therefore they are similar in scope and rejected under the same rationale.
12. Dependent Claims 12 and 14 claim "...wherein the character display data includes the characters to be displayed, an angle of display and a position of

display." Sato teaches in paragraph [0010] lines 21-22 on page 6 as "character deformation information" and in lines 5-7 on page 7.

### ***Response to Arguments***

13. Applicant's arguments filed on 12/31/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues in last paragraph on page 10 and first paragraph on page 11 "the system of Sato first determines a semi-circular arch path for which the characters will be placed around... Once the arch is determined, each character is separately manipulated, each in a different manner, so that the characters can be placed around the arch path."

But Sato discloses the ability to place characters (and also series of characters) at various angles on a display. Sato disclose "periphery" as an example of one of the character string expansion methods (paragraph [0016] on page 9 of translation of Sato).

Applicant argues on page 11, second paragraph, "Applicants also note that Seto's system is designed for use with a word processor." And further on page 11, first paragraph argues "In contrast, the present invention is designed to display characters on a personal computer or navigation device in a specific designated manner. Thus, there is no need to modify or to deform characters for embellishment."

Applicant has not claimed the aforementioned subject matter in any of the claims.

Applicant argues on page 14, second paragraph "Seto does not utilize a proximal reference point for each character or for a character series... Thus, Seto provides coordinate points for each character, but fails to teach or suggest approximate reference points associated with each character, which is used in determining a display position."

According to specification page 11 line 3 "Coordinate values for display reference points" are "proximal reference points" therefore Sato also disclose proximal reference point for each character. Sato disclose determining the proximal reference point for each character of the character series in drawing 7 reference number 3, 5, 7 and 9. Furthermore, Sato disclose determining a proximate reference point for a series of characters in drawing 10 reference number 2.

Applicant argues on page 15 last paragraph, "nowhere in Seto does it suggest or teach positioning characters at the dot pattern level."

A dot is a single point and Sato disclose using dot information in positioning characters in drawing 7 and 10.

Applicant argues on page 16 first paragraph "Seto does not suggest or disclose the ability of a user to input a specified angle for a character string."

Applicant has not claimed the aforementioned subject matter in any of the claims.

***Conclusion***

**14. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

**15.** Any communication or earlier communications from the examiner should inquiry concerning be directed to **Faranak Fouladi** whose telephone number is **703-305-3223**. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Michael Razavi** can be reach at **703-305-4713**.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC. 20231

**Or faxed to: 703-872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

Application/Control Number: 09/731,850  
Art Unit: 2672

Page 9

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, sixth-floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

**Faranak Fouladi-Semnani**  
**Patent Examiner**  
**Art Unit 2672**



MICHAEL RAZAVI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600